

Attorney Docket 045636-5039
Application No. 09/632,806
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please substitute the following paragraphs on pages 6 and 19 as indicated.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 34 with the following:

This modification of the V3 loop was carried out with the aid of 4 oligonucleotides. They were hybridized so as to reconstitute the modified V3 loop and cloned directly between the AseI and NheI restriction sites of an intermediate vector comprising the first 1035 nucleotides of the *env* gene, in such a way as to conserve only the GPGRAPHF (SEQ ID NO: 1) motif and the two cysteines of the V3 region.

Replace the paragraph on page 19, line 1 with the following:

These results show that partially deleting the V3 loop while keeping the conserved sequence GPGRAPHF (SEQ ID NO: 1) promotes the induction of wide-ranging antibodies which are capable of neutralizing various laboratory strains, but also various primary isolates.